



SECRETARIAT
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To the members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Synopsis of the meeting held in Paris on 3 December 2018

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Paris on 3 December 2018, with Ms Elvira Kovács (Serbia, EPP/CD), Chairperson, in the Chair, as regards:

- **Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe:** heard a statement by its Chairperson on the regional study on *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe* carried out by the Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as well as on the hashtag initiative #NotInMyParliament launched by the President of the Assembly;
- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2018:** heard a statement by Ms Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo (Monaco, ALDE), General Rapporteur on violence against women, on the activities organised by members of the Parliamentary Network Women Free from Violence in the context of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence;
- **Promoting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities** (*Rapporteur: Mr Viorel Riceard Badea, Romania, EPP/CD*): took note of the dissenting opinion expressed by Mr Mustafa Yeneroğlu (Turkey, FDG) and of his request to include it in the report, and decided to include it as an appendix to the report; considered and approved a draft report and unanimously adopted a draft resolution;
- **Compatibility of Sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights: can States Parties to the Convention be signatories of the “Cairo Declaration”?** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Mr Manuel Tornare, Switzerland, SOC*): heard a statement by the rapporteur for opinion and held a hearing with the participation of Dr Ioana Cismas, Senior Lecturer, York Law School and the Centre for Applied Human Rights, York, United Kingdom;
- **Evaluation of the partnership for democracy in respect of the parliament of Morocco** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Edite Estrela, Portugal, SOC*): considered an outline for an opinion; held a hearing with the participation of Mr Driss El Yazami, Chairman, National Human Rights Council, Morocco; and took note of the reporting back of the meeting of the ad hoc sub-committee to participate in the *Regional conference on women in politics: how to progress towards equality?* (Rabat, 5 July 2018);
- **Growing hate speech and role of the political leaders in fighting hate crime: follow-up to ECRI Recommendations** (*Rapporteur: Ms Elvira Kovács, Serbia, EPP/CD*): considered a preliminary draft report and decided to change the title of the report to *The role and responsibilities of political leaders in combating hate speech and intolerance*;
- **Stop hate speech and acts of hatred in sport** (*Rapporteur: Mr Goran Beus Richembergh, Croatia, ALDE*): considered an information memorandum;

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- **Obstetrical and gynaecological violence** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maryvonne Blondin, France, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and held a hearing with the participation of Dr Amina Yamgnane, Gynaecologist-Obstetrician and Head of the Maternity Department of the American Hospital of Paris, and Ms Anne-Mette Schroll, Consultant Midwife, Danish Association of Midwives, Copenhagen;
- **Achievements and challenges in implementing the Istanbul Convention on violence against women** (*Rapporteur: Ms Zita Gurmai, Hungary, SOC*): considered an introductory memorandum and heard a statement by the rapporteur on her participation in the Round Table with NGOs on the Istanbul Convention which had been organised by the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 29 November 2018);
- **Persecution of LGBTI people in the Chechen Republic (Russian Federation)** (*Rapporteur: Mr Piet De Bruyn, Belgium, NR*): heard a statement by the rapporteur on the follow-up to Assembly recommendation 2138 (2018) and resolution 2230 (2018) and on the launch by the OSCE of its Moscow mechanism to look into allegations of human rights violations in the Chechen Republic;
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63)** (New York, United States, 11-22 March 2019): took note of a draft concept note for a side-event on *Violence against women in politics*, to be co-organised with the Finnish presidency of the Committee of Ministers, the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the margins of the CSW 63 (exact date to be confirmed) and held an exchange of views on the Committee's representation and participation;
- **Gender mainstreaming in the work of the Assembly: from proposals to action**: took note of a memorandum by its Chairperson; approved the proposals contained therein; and decided to transmit the memorandum to the President and the Secretary General of the Assembly for them to ensure an appropriate follow-up;
- **Work programme**: took note of the work programme;
- **Appointment of rapporteurs**:
 - took note of the candidacies of Ms Colette Kelleher (Ireland, SOC) and Mr František Kopřiva (Czech Republic, ALDE) to be appointed as rapporteur for report on *Discrimination against Roma and Travellers in the field of housing* and, in the absence of the candidates, decided to postpone the appointment to its next meeting;
 - appointed Ms Petra Stienen (Netherlands, ALDE) as rapporteur for report on *The gender dimension of foreign policy* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) as rapporteur for report on *Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - appointed Ms Sahiba Gafarova (Azerbaijan, EC) as rapporteur for opinion on *Evaluation of the Partnership for Democracy in respect of the parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
 - appointed Ms Petra Bayr (Austria, SOC) as rapporteur for opinion on *Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and heard from her a declaration of absence of conflict of interests;
- **Reporting back**: heard reports from:
 - Mr Piet De Bruyn (Belgium, NR) for his participation in ILGA-Europe's 22nd Annual Conference on *Politics for Change: from Words into Action* (Brussels, 25-27 October 2018);
 - Ms Zita Gurmai (Hungary, SOC) on her participation in the World Forum for Democracy 2018 (Strasbourg, 19-21 November 2018);
- **Next meetings of the Committee**: confirmed its next meetings as follows:
 - Strasbourg, during the 1st part-session 2019 of the Assembly (21-25 January);
 - Paris, 7 March 2019 (Council of Europe Office);
 - Strasbourg, during the 2nd part-session 2019 of the Assembly (8-12 April);
 - 5-6 June 2019 (place tbc);
 - Strasbourg, during the 3rd part-session 2019 of the Assembly (24-28 June);

- Paris, 12 September 2019 (Council of Europe Office);
- Strasbourg, during the 4th part-session 2019 of the Assembly (30 September - 4 October);
- Paris, 4 December 2019 (Council of Europe Office).

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